

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) seek written and oral comments from interested persons on the development of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for fecal coliform bacteria in shellfish propagation waters located in Onancock Creek, Accomack County, Virginia.

All impaired segments are located wholly within Accomack County and the Town of Onancock. These areas are described in the following publications:

1) Growing Area 80 as described in Virginia Department of Health, Notice and Description of Shellfish Area Condemnation Number 13 for Onancock Creek and Number 169, for Mechtank Creek, effective 2 April 1997.

The affected water body segments are identified in Virginia's 1998 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report as impaired due to violations of the State's water quality standard for fecal coliform bacteria in shellfish waters. Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and §62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia, require DEQ to develop TMDLs for pollutants responsible for each impaired water contained in Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report.

The first public meeting on the development of the fecal coliform TMDL's will be held on March 2, 2005 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Town of Onancock Council Chambers, 15 North Street, Onancock, Virginia. Directions can be obtained by calling Chester Bigelow at (804) 698-4554 or the Town Offices at (757) 787-3363.

The public comment period will begin on March 2, 2005, and end on April 1, 2005. Questions or information requests should be addressed to Chester Bigelow and should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments. Requests should be sent to Chester Bigelow, Department of Environmental Quality, 629 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia, 23240, telephone (804) 698-4554, Fax (804) 698-4116, or e-mail ccbigeow@deq.virginia.gov.